

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-04 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-12 ACDA-08 IO-03 TRSE-00 NEA-05

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INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 14455

CINCPAC ALSO PASS POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, SEATO

SUBJECT: SEATO: 18TH COUNCIL MEETING

REF: A. BANGKOK A-164, ITEM 4

B. BANGKOK 9991

C. BANGKOK A-242, ITEM 3

D. BANGKOK 14358

1. OFFICIAL IN OFFICE OF SECRETARY TO THAI DEPFONMIN CHARTCHAI
INFORMED EMBOFF ON SEPTEMBER 13 THAT IT WAS HIS OPINION THAI
COUNCIL MEMBER WOULD HOPE TO RAISE FOR DISCUSSION AT SEPTEMBER
27 STAG DINNER FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

A. PROBLEMS RELATED TO SITUATION IN KHMER REPUBLIC WHICH THAIS
CONSIDER AS CONTINUING SECURITY THREAT. ITEMS THEY WOULD WISH TO
DISCUSS UNDER THIS HEADING ARE EXTENT OF CONTINUED US SUPPORT
FOR LON NOL GOVERNMENT AND EXPLORATION OF IDEAS AS TO WHAT CAN
BE DONE TO RESOLVE SITUATION.

B. GENERAL SUBJECT OF SOVIET AND PRC INTENTIONS RE INDOCHINA.

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C. REQUIREMENT FOR MORE SEATO SUPPORT IN CSI FIELD IN VIEW OF AGREED UPON LOWER CONVENTIONAL MILITARY PROFILE OF ORGANIZATION. RE THIS SUBJECT, SEPTEMBER 14 ISSUE OF BANGKOK POST, IN FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE CONCERNING DEPFONMIN'S OFFICIAL TRIP TO US TO ATTEND UNGA AND SEATO COUNCIL MEETING, STATED THAT CHARTCHAI "WILL PUSH FOR RE-ORIENTATION OF THE DEFENSE ALLIANCE TO MAKE IT CAPABLE OF COUNTERING INSURGENCY WHICH IS CONSIDERED A MORE VITAL PROBLEM THAN THE POSSIBILITY OF OPEN AGGRESSION."

2. RE SUBPARA C ABOVE, AS DEPARTMENT AWARE WE HAVE BEEN FOREMOST AMONG MEMBERS IN SUPPORTING SEATO'S INCREASED EMPHASIS ON AIDING REGIONAL MEMBERS IN COUNTERING SUBVERSION AND INSURGENCY. PRIME EXAMPLE OF THIS WAS OUR RECENT \$64,250 CONTRIBUTION TO SEATO FOR PRODUCTION OF CI BANGKOK FOR THAILAND (REF A). AS DEPARTMENT ALSO AWARE, THERE ARE BOTH POLITICAL AND BUDGETARY LIMITATIONS AS TO EXTENT OF SEATO INVOLVEMENT IN CSI FIELD. IN VIEW OF THESE FACTORS, WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT US COUNCIL MEMBER RESPOND TO THIS SUBJECT ALONG LINES THAT US WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT SHIFT IN SEATO EMPHASIS TO CSI FIELD AND THAT ANY SPECIFIC REQUESTS TO SEATO RELATED TO CSI SHOULD BE CHanneled THRU EXISTING SEATO NEGOTIATING BODIES. US WILL ALSO CONSIDER FAVORABLY, AS IN THE PASTN SEATO SUPPORT FOR MODEST PROJECTS WHICH CAN BE SHOWN TO PROVIDE KEY ASSISTANCE TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SUPPORT OF CI. (SEE PARA 3C BELOW.)

3. RE SEPTEMBER 28 MEETING, SEATO WILL PROVIDE US COUNCIL MEMBER CHAIRMAN'S NOTES AS GUIDE TO PROCEEDINGS. NOTES WILL AMPLY EXPLAIN ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY COUNCIL ON EACH AGENDA ITEM. US COUNCIL REP WILL ALSO BE PRESENT TO PROVIDE BACKGROUND EXPLANATIONS AS REQUIRED.

4. RE REFTTEL B, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT US COUNCL MEMBER CONSIDER MENTIONING FOLLOWING SPECIFIC POINTS WHEN SPEAKING FOR US DURING MEETING:

A. AGENDA ITEM II - REMARKS BY US COUNCL MEMBER: IN SETTING TONE FOR MEETING, IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO REFER TO CHANGED SITUATION IN TREATY AREA SINCE LAST COUNCIL MEETING, NOTABLY THE MOVEMENT TOWARD PEACEFUL AND VIABLE SETTLEMENT OF INDOCHINA CONFLICT, AND GENERAL RECOGNITION BY ALL MEMBERS THAT EXISTING

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SITUATION REQUIRES SERIOUS RE-EXAMINATION OF SEATO'S FUTURE ROLE AND RELATED STRUCTURE, A REQUIREMENT UNDERSCORED BY FACT THAT ORGANIZATION IS "UNDER FIRE" IN SEVERAL MEMBER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING OUR OWN LEGISLATIVE BRANCH. THIS COULD WELL BE APPROPRIATE PLACE TO REAFFIRM US COMMITMENT TO MANILA PACT.

B. AGENDA ITEM IV - EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON MATTERS AFFECTING TREATY AREA: WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR US COUNCIL MEMBER,

WHILE LIMITING REVIEW TO DEVELOPMENTS SINCE 17TH COUNCIL MEETING, TO GIVE A FULL ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT SITUATION IN SEA AND PROVIDE COUNCIL MEMBERS WITH SOME INSIGHT INTO FUTURE US PLANS RE TREATY AREA, INCLUDING NEGOTIATING PROSPECTS AND, IN PARTICULAR, REASSURANCE THAT NIXON DOCTRINE IS STILL VALID AND THAT US SECURITY UMBRELLA WILL BE RETAINED.

C. AGENDA ITEM V - CONSIDERATION OF VARIOUS ANNUAL REPORTS: ALTHOUGH NO FORMAL REMARKS ARE REQUIRED, SUGGEST THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR US COUNCIL MEMBER TO CONGRATULATE SECGEN ON CONTENTS OF HIS REPORT TO THE COUNCIL (SG/73/REP-C, 15 COPIES OF WHICH WERE POUCHED TO MS. ISOM, EA/RA, UNDER REGISTRY NUMBERS 608550 THRU 608552), PARTICULARLY NOTING WITH SATISFACTION SEATO'S INCREASED SUPPORT FOR CSI-RELATED ECONOMIC/SOCIAL PROJECTS IN REGIONAL MEMBER COUNTRIES (SEE PAGE 18, PARAS 66 THRU 72 AND ANNEX A, PARAS 11 THRU 20 OF SG/73/REP-C). SEATO CAN GRANT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THOSE RELATIVELY SMALL-SCALE PROJECTS (\$10-15,000) WHICH OTHER MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS FIND ADMINISTRATIVELY TOO MODEST TO CONSIDER. MOREOVER, THESE SMALL-SCALE PROJECTS, DIRECTED TOWARD HELPING A PARTICULAR VILLAGE OR PRECISE RURAL AREA, HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT ON THE PEOPLE. ALSO SUGGESTED THAT US COUNCIL MEMBER NOTE WITH SATISFACTION MILADS AND COUNCIL REPS REPORTS TO COUNCIL.

D. AGENDA ITEM VI - EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND DECISION ON ROLE AND STRUCTURE OF SEATO: US COUNCIL MEMBER, AS CHAIRMAN, WILL INTRODUCE THIS ITEM AND THE SECGEN WILL DELIVER PREPARED SPEECH ON SUBJECT. OTHER MEMBERS ARE ALSO EXPECTED TO MAKE COMMENTS. SUGGEST THAT US COUNCIL MEMBER CONGRATULATE SECGEN ON BEING RESPONSIVE TO COUNCIL REPS' REQUEST CALLING FOR REVIEW AND PRODUCING A THOROUGH AND PERCEPTIVE REPORT (REV/73/REP). IT WOULD BE EXPECTED THAT US COUNCIL MEMBER WOULD ENDORSE ALL OF COUNCIL REPS' RECOMMENDATIONS RE SEATO ROLE AND STRUCTURE.
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E. AGENDA ITEM VII - DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS: WE SEE NO PROBLEMS WITH THIS DOCUMENT (REFTEL D, PARA 2). AND WOULD EXPECT US COUNCIL MEMBER TO APPROVE SAME.

F. AGENDA ITEM VIII - OTHER BUSINESS: AS REPORTED REFTEL D, NEW ZEALAND WILL NOT HOST 19TH COUNCIL MEETING SO MATTER WILL NOT BE RAISED UNDER THIS AGENDA ITEM. THIS MATTER WILL BE ADDRESSED BY COUNCIL REPS UPON RESUMPTION OF THEIR REGULAR SESSIONS IN BANGKOK. ONLY SUBJECT SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION UNDER THIS ITEM WILL BE BRIEF DRAFT PRESS STATEMENT WHICH COUNCIL WILL BE REQUIRED TO APPROVE. CONTRARY TO INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY RELAYED IN REFTEL B, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, AS WELL AS ALL OTHER MEMBERS, FAVOR ISSUANCE OF PRESS STATEMENT AT CONCLUSION MEETING.
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